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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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Polish Teenager Apologizes for Attache Incident

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A teenage youth claiming to be the brother of one of the soldiers who detained US attache Metzger near a military installation last month risked coming to the US Embassy in Warsaw on 2 February to apologize for his brother's role in the incident. The youth said that his brother was aware that Metzger's companion on the trip to Bydgoszcz, Canadian attache Jefferson, was the one seen taking photographs, and that

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Metzger himself "was not guilty." The youth's brother allegedly wished to assure the Embassy that he was not responsible for the "falsehoods" that have appeared in Poland concerning the matter. 25X1

COMMENT: The youth's risky trip to the Embassy may have been prompted by the voluminous regime propaganda on the incident, which included detailed alleged depositions against Metzger by the arresting soldiers.

Poles Embarrassed About Scanlan Incident

The Poles appear to be considerably more sanguine about the recent incident in Poznan involving the wife of the US consular officer there, John Scanlan, than about the affair of expelled US attache Metzger.

Mrs. Scanlan was apprehended at gunpoint on 26 January by an overzealous soldier after she had inadvertently parked near a military installation in Poznan. She was released shortly thereafter, after she had indentified herself to the soldier's superior officer.

The US Embassy in Warsaw, however, formally protested against the incident the next day to Polish Foreign Ministry officials, who downplayed the matter. On 3 February, Foreign Ministry spokesman Sieradzki added that "further inquiry" had revealed the soldier's actions to have been "rude" and that the US "need not worry that such incidents would recur." 25X1

COMMENT: The Embassy is inclined to view the Poznan incident as an isolated reaction by an individual soldier to the regime's artificially whipped up anti-US campaign arising from the Metzger affair. The State Department, however, tends to view the incident more seriously in the light of deteriorated Polish-US relations, and reserves the right to carry its protest to "higher levels." 25X1

Status of Expired Rumanian-Soviet Friendship Treaty Still in Doubt

Neither Bucharest nor Moscow referred to the expiration of the treaty's initial 20-year term on 4 February or to its "renewal" in their restrained celebration of the anniversary. The US Embassy in Moscow argues that by failing to note the

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treaty's expiration date, Moscow's congratulatory message to the Rumanians bore the implication that the treaty is to be automatically extended for a period of 5-years rather than renegotiated. The Embassy suggests that this implication is supported by the statement in the Soviet message saying that the treaty "serves well" its purposes. The Embassy failed to note, however, that the passage "serves well" was immediately preceded by "this treaty, based on the principles of socialist internationalism, was an important factor in the development of Soviet-Rumanian relations."

In Rumania, speeches and articles commemorating the treaty anniversary dwelled almost entirely on bilateral relations. Nowhere was there any mention of the Warsaw Pact or CEMA, nor did the Rumanians anywhere refer to socialist internationalism.

Meanwhile, the French Ambassador in Bucharest reports that a Rumanian delegation currently is in Moscow continuing negotiations reportedly started in Bucharest last month by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Ilychev. 25X1

COMMENT: Rumania's insistence on language compatible with its independence has delayed renewal of its bilateral friendship treaties not only with Moscow but also with Sofia and Budapest. The Rumanians evidently are still interested in renegotiating renewals, but only if a compromise suitable to them can be achieved. If this compromise cannot be reached, the treaties presumably will be automatically extended for a period of 5-years, at the end of which the negotiating climate might be much improved.

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